

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 AID-20 EB-11 CIEP-03

TRSE-00 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 COME-00 FRB-03 XMB-07

OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 AGR-20 FEA-02 AEC-11 FPC-01

INT-08 SAM-01 SCI-06 TAR-02 SWF-02 NEA-14 AF-10 PC-10

IO-14 DRC-01 /257 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5988

UNCLAS CARACAS 9364

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, ECIN, VE

SUBJECT: CONTINUED VENEZUELAN REACTION TO PRESIDENT FORD'S
UNITED NATIONS ADDRESS

REF: CARACAS 9317. 9318 AND 9337

1. REACTION TO PRESIDENT FORD'S UN ADDRESS CONTINUED TO RECEIVE
HEADLINE TREATMENT IN THE PRESS AND OTHER MEDIA ON SEPTEMBER 21.
PRESIDENT PEREZ' TELEGRAM RESPONDING TO THE ADDRESS WAS FIRM
AND UNANIMOUS. CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT FORD'S ADDRESS
CONTINUED TO BE RELATIVELY STRIDENT IN POLITICAL CIRCLES AND MORE
MODERATE WHEN VOICED BY PRIVATE SECTOR LEADERS. MANY SPOKESMEN
POINTED OUT THAT VENEZUELA WAS ACTING IN THE INTEREST OF ALL
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN PRESSING FOR IMPROVED TERMS OF TRADE
FOR ALL RAW MATERIAL PRODUCERS. EL NACIONAL HEADLINED A
WASHINGTON UPI STORY REPORTING THAT THE WHITE HOUSE HAD SAID
THAT FORD'S CRITICISM OF PETROLEUM PRODUCERS WAS DIRECTED
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PRINCIPALLY AT THE ARAB BLOC.

2. ALL VENEZUELAN POLITICAL PARTIES WERE QUOTED IN CARACAS NEWSPAPERS SEPTEMBER 21 AS ENDORSING PRESIDENT PEREZ' REPLY TO PRESIDENT FORD'S UN SPEECH. COMMENTS BY THE PARTY SPOKESMEN WERE PROMINENTLY FEATURED. AD AND NATIONAL CONGRESS PRESIDENT GONZALO BARRIOS WAS MOST OBJECTIVE AND CAREFULLY AVOIDED POLEMIC STATEMENTS, STRESSING INSTEAD THAT OPEC ACTIONS SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD IN CONTEXT OF EFFORT TO READJUST ECONOMIC BALANCE BETWEEN PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS. ACTING COPEI SECRETARY GENERAL EDUARDO FERNANDEZ, REPRESENTING PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION PARTY, EMPHASIZED EFFORT EX-PRESIDENT CALDERA MADE TO REDRESS ECONOMIC BALANCE, AND SUPPORTED PEREZ IN THIS CONTEXT. HE REPEATED CALDERA'S THESIS MADE IN SPEECH BEFORE U.S. CONGRESS THAT WORLD CONFERENCE IS NEEDED TO DISCUSS TRADE AND ENERGY PROBLEMS.

3. REACTION FROM LEFTIST PARTIES WAS PREDICTABLE, AS FOLLOWS: SECRETARY GENERAL JESUS FARIA OF PCV, HUMBERTO BARTOLI SPEAKING FOR URD, JOSE VICENTE RANGEL WHO WAS MAS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, SIUBERTO MARTINEZ FROM THE PARLIMENTARY FACTION OF MEP, SECRETARY GENERAL AMERICO MARTIN OF MIR, SECRETARY GENERAL POMPEYO MARQUEZ OF MAS, ALL CALLED FOR SPEED UP OF OIL NATIONALIZATION, AND IN PARTICULAR FOR STUDY AND DEBATE OF THE QUESTION WHEN CONGRESS RECONVENES IN OCTOBER. RANGEL ADDED THAT NOW IS TIME TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT "ABUSIVE EARNINGS" OF OIL COMPANIES. EDUARDO MACHADO WHO IS LEADER OF COMMUNIST VANGUARD GROUP STATED FORD SPEECH WAS INTENDED TO BREAK OPEC ACCORD AND FRIGHTEN VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT AND THOSE PARTISANS OF OIL NATIONALIZATION.

4. LABOR LEADERS WERE EQUALLY STRONG IN SUPPORT OF PEREZ. CTV SECRETARY GENERAL AND ACTING PRESIDENT RAFAEL LEON SAID THAT THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT RAPID NATIONALIZATION OF OIL WILL RESULT FROM THE NORTH AMERICAN ATTITUDE TOWARDS DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. NATIONALIZATION WILL BE ANSWER TO DAILY THREATS FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. OTHER UNIONS HEARD FROM INCLUDED MINING AND METALWORKERS, CAMPESINO FEDERATION, NEWSPAPER WRITERS, PETROLEUM WORKERS (FEDEPETROL), AND EVEN FISHERMEN (FETRAPESCA).

5. PRIVATE SECTOR LEADERS CONTINUED FIRM IN SUPPORTING PRESIDENT
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PEREZ' MESSAGE. FEDECAMERAS PRESIDENT ALFREDO PAUL INDICATED THAT THE PEREZ LETTER EXPRESSED A CONSENSUS OF ALL RAW MATERIAL PRODUCERS WHO HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY THE PERMANENT AND PROGRESSIVE DETERIORATION OF THEIR TERMS OF TRADE. THE PRESIDENTS OF PRO VENEZUELA, THE CARACAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AND THE VENEZUELA INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL ALSO MADE

STATEMENTS SUPPORTING PEREZ.

6. ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER JOHN RAFAEL REPORTED THAT THE GOV HAS REQUESTED THAT THE UN DISTRIBUTE COPIES OF PEREZ' LETTER AS AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT AT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY. HE WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT IN ANSWERING FORD'S STATEMENT VENEZUELA FELT A RESPONSIBILITY, NOT ONLY FOR THE INTERESTS OF VENEZUELA, BUT FOR THOSE OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD IN GENERAL. FISHER

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